

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been examined. Claims 1-16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,712,137 to Kadekodi et al. (“Kadekodi”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,166,831 to Boyd et al. (“Boyd”).

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadekodi and Boyd.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 recites the feature of a plurality of rows of image sensing elements, wherein each of the rows is offset with respect to adjacent rows of image sensing elements.

The Examiner asserts that Kadekodi discloses a plurality of rows of image sensing elements (90 and 94), wherein each of the rows (90 and 94) is offset with respect to adjacent rows by an amount which is smaller than the width of an image sensing element. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Kadekodi does not disclose that each row of photosites (90 and 94) is offset with respect to adjacent rows of photosites (see Fig. 4). Rather, ✓ Kadekodi discloses that each row of photosites (90 and 94) is offset with respect to only one adjacent row of photosites.

For example, as shown in Fig. 4, photosite row 90 is offset with respect to adjacent photosite row 94, but is not offset with respect to adjacent rows of photosites. Thus, while Kadekodi discloses a row of photosites offset with respect to an adjacent row of photosites, Kadekodi does not disclose a row of photosites offset with respect to adjacent rows of photosites.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Boyd fails to cure this deficient teaching of Kadekodi. Accordingly, as the combination of Kadekodi and Boyd does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art.

B. Claims 2-4

Since claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadekodi, Boyd and E.P. Publication 0663763 A2 to Philbrick ("Philbrick").

Claims 5-8 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadekodi in view of Boyd and Philbrick. However, since claims 5-8 and 18 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon claim 1, and Philbrick fails to cure the deficient teachings of Kadekodi and Boyd, Applicant submits that claims 5-8 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadekodi, Boyd and U.S. Patent No. 5,859,712 to Kim ("Kim").

Claims 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadekodi in view of Boyd and Kim.

A. Claim 9

The Examiner maintains the combination of Kadekodi, Boyd and Kim suggests the features recited in claim 9. However, claim 9 contains features which are similar to the features recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over the Kadekodi and Boyd references for at least similar reasons as set forth above. In addition, since Kim fails to cure the deficient teachings of Kadekodi and Boyd, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over the combination of the cited references.

B. Claims 10-12

Since claims 10-12 are dependent upon claim 9, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

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IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadekodi, Boyd, Kim and Philbrick.

Claims 13-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadekodi in view of Boyd, Kim and Philbrick. However, since claims 13-16 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon claim 9, and Kim and Philbrick fail to cure the deficient teachings of Kadekodi and Boyd, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

As discussed above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant has rewritten claim 17 in independent form, thereby placing the claim in condition for allowance.

VI. Conclusion

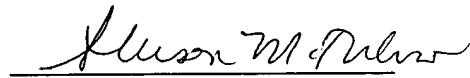
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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